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News Release

River Watch Recognizes U of M Crookston's Laura Bell with Voyageur Award for 2014

By Itolfe on Monday, March 24, 2014 She has been a part of River Watch since she was a freshman in high school, first as a

student in their pilot program. Today, Laura Bell (photo, right) is lab services coordinator in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department at the University of Minnesota Crookston and the "go-to" River Watch person on the Crookston campus. At the spring River Watch Forum, Bell was recognized with the Voyageur Award.



The award recognizes efforts that go above and beyond the normal monthly monitoring duties of the River Watch program and demonstrating the greater potential and contribution that River Watch can provide to a school, a community, and a watershed. Bell is the current River Watch liaison with Fisher, Climax, and East Grand Forks River Watch teams. She paddles with the River Explorers program and helps with both the River Watch Forum and the annual Water Quality and Water Monitoring Training and Certification Day. More than 25 River Watch teams provide valuable water quality data at more than 150 river sites throughout northwest Minnesota. Teams presented posters of their monitoring and research results at the 19th Annual River Watch Forum held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Students visited with resource professionals at concurrent sessions on a wide range of topics, including stream ecology, groundwater issues, Red River fishing, invasive species, and river recreation options. To learn more, visit <http://iwinst.org/riverwatchforum.htm>.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 20 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus--as well as 13 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umn-crookston.edu.

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